

6-7-26 Message

Tue, Jun 09, 2026 3:04PM 37:48

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Faith, gospel message, youth transition, spiritual openness, discipleship, Gen Z, church attendance, prayer, AI spiritual guidance, personal growth, purity, example, word, charity, spirit.

SPEAKERS

Pastor Dow Boyer



Pastor Dow Boyer 00:00

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this day, Lord. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, Lord. And we just thank you, Lord, that you've showed us the meaning of serve by coming and giving your life for us, coming down in the form of a servant, Lord. And you shed your precious blood on the cross for our sins, Lord. If we will just believe by faith that that blood cleansed us from all unrighteousness and paid our sin debt, and that you're buried and rose again the third day. Lord, we will be with you in heaven for all eternity, and we will be saved. I pray that everyone listening, everyone in this building, has placed their faith in that alone, Lord. Not to be confused with any other message out there, but Lord, it is that gospel message that saves today, and we thank you for that, Lord, that if not for grace, we could not be in a position to be right with you, and it had everything to do with Christ, and not us at all. And we thank you for that. We thank you for that grace today, in Jesus' name. Amen. This is always an exciting time of year for me. This is each year I've had the opportunity to be able to come, and gosh, this is going on now for 11, probably 11 or 12 times during the promotion Sunday, bringing the teens across the stage, as well as the college age, and I know it's sometimes scary, and this is this is probably harder for the younger groups, but it's not just recognizing our graduates, but it's also our eighth graders now get to move up into the high school class, right? And it's our graduates now move on into our singles class with Joel and Marcy, and there should be that progression in our lives, have you know, progression. There are times where we have to move on to the next phase of life, but that's not always easy. It's not easy for adults, and so you can imagine it's not easy for kids. They don't want to leave their friends, they don't want to leave their teachers, or their classes, but it's important that they keep moving and that they keep growing. I think every step gives a little bit more of that foundation one day that will will make them, you know, I guess a member of Grace Point, sitting in this position here as mature adults, you know. I try to look at it this way because I'm more of a planner, but I was like, all right, I see our seasoned, mature adults in this room, and then I see our toddlers. It's like, how do we work backwards from being a toddler to one day be this? You know, it's not just, well, we hope one day that they stick with us. It's not that we just pour into them through junior high and high school and just say, well, we hope that they come back one day. That's why we have a singles ministry. That's why these Tuesday nights are so important. It's not just for singles, but the young adults to be connected is so important, so they know they have time and they have a space. But I try to say, how do we work backwards from that, so you gain a little bit more, right? The toddler start

learning some basic understanding and some, and some basic children's stories, and then as you keep moving, there's a few more blocks that are added to that, right, and that, and we should keep growing them in the doctrine a little bit more, a little bit more. These Bible stories have meaning, but this was how God dealt with Israel, right. We start seeing distinctions, even from an early age, so that one day you're sitting here and you're not confused, that should be the goal, but with that takes a lot of steps, and it takes a lot of growth, and it happens that way, even in our lives. Right? I was looking at this study this week from Barna, and it was literally released on June 2. So it's pretty fresh information. And there were four things that they noticed: one is spiritual openness is growing, but discipleship is not keeping pace. And here's what they said: is that two thirds of us adults say that they have made a personal commitment to Jesus that remains important in their lives. A significant - this is what was said here - a significant rebound from recent lows, but it says this: among younger adults, the signal is even stronger, nearly three in four Gen Z adults say they are seeing peers commit their lives to Jesus, and I think that's pretty exciting. We saw a lot that was going on with Charlie Kirk and Turning Point USA, and that there was more of those Gen Zs that were kind of engaging in openness to the gospel. Here's another point that they said, as they said, younger generations, especially Gen Z men, which is awesome. Gen Z men are leading the rise in church attendance and overall faith engagement, but kind of as a byproduct of this, this is something that has shifted the other way, but Gen Z women, ages 18 to 24 are increasingly and surprisingly churchless, unaffiliated, and disengaged. Now, for a number of years, it's been like, okay, well, the women have been the most faithful ones, but now there's with this younger generation it is kind of flipping. Third thing they said is that prayer. Are maybe the spiritual practice that you are underestimating, and 2025 73% of US adults, and 86% of Christians reported praying weekly, but then there's this fourth one: AI is already shaping the lives of the people you lead. Listen to this. Roughly four in 10 practicing Christians say AI has helped them with prayer, Bible study, and nearly half have looked at AI for personal growth, 49% Now, listen, what's this next sentence? And take it in. That formation is largely happening without pastoral input or theological framing. In fact, it goes on to say nearly one in three US adults say spiritual guidance from AI is as trustworthy as guidance from a pastor. I'm not anti-AI, I'm just stating what's going on here, it is, we do kind of see this, there becomes like this, this trust in an AI. It's interesting that that's what this article is talking about. It says among Gen Z and millennials that that figure rises to two and five. There is a whole generation that is open to spirituality that's coming up that is anxious to learn is anxious to grow, and they are turning to AI to teach them now. Is a great tool, can it be a good personal assistant? Absolutely. In those things, is it to be your pastor? See, and that's where, when you get used to it, and you lean into it. I remember when Rachel and I went to towns in Tennessee, right outside of Gatlinburg last year, and we were prepping for the Philippians study. She was prepping for the women's Bible study, and so I told her, I was like, I'm going to test this out a little bit, because I don't have a ton of experience with AI. So I was testing out Grok. You may have your different ones that you like, and so I was asking, how many times the word joy, rejoice, or rejoicing is used in the book of Philippians. I had already counted it up and everything, and I sold it specifically through the King James version, and their number was different than my number, and so me and AI had a conversation and the response from Grok was, I overlooked Philippians 118 when counting the occurrences of forms of the word joy in Philippians. This was an error. This is what AI was telling me, as the verse clearly contains two instances of rejoice. Let's correct the total count by including these, and then time we sign off and end the little conversation. It was, thank you for pointing out the oversight. Now, the reason I say this is having a few times with me is, for one, I'm a Gen X pastor, not a Gen Z or millennial, and even I'm not going to trust AI to be my pastor. It's convincing, it's articulate, it's right down the line through there. But I say all that to say, Who's teaching our young people? Where is the influences coming from? Have we failed so much as their mentors and leaders that they can't trust us, that they have to go to AI. Have we

been such a poor example that they will find more safety in an unbiased program? Are we to blame partly for this? It's one thing I said to use it as a tool, get information, write the right stuff, do your research and say put this into a format I could see value in, and things like that. But to let it become your pastor is very dangerous. It pulls all this information from searching and gives you an answer. What it's going to find is stuff from every denomination, but you can get - I know you can get really specific with queuing it up with the right stuff, absolutely, but even then it should not be a substitute for your personal study. But this is not a topic about Al. It was just kind of a side note. Today our young people are being recognized, and so I want to be able to focus on First Timothy, chapter four, specifically in verse 12. But I thought this was a good way to frame what we're going to talk about today. This verse, which we will hang out here a lot today, says, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in word and conversation, in charity, in spirit, and faith, and purity, and we're going to talk about those words and focus on this topic today, as we talk about the youth, as we celebrate the youth, kind of moving on, but I promise you it's going to come full circle to everyone here, so don't tune me out just because you can say I didn't graduate high school today, I promise you there will be. Stuff for you in here as well, in this verse here. Remember that Paul is getting ready to hand the reins over to Timothy. He's going to write a whole nother letter, but that's kind of where we're prepping. This one specifically is he's sending him to Ephesus, and there's a lot of stuff going on in Ephesus, and so he's giving him some instruction, but in anticipation of what's going to happen when he sends him there, he's like, "Hey, they're going to throw some stones at you about your age, really. He's talking about her experience, not so much a number. And so he says, "Let no man despise thy youth. You've been given a job to do, Timothy, and one of the ways the enemy is going to try to stop you is through people saying you're not qualified, you're not experienced enough, right? You're not Paul Timothy. He says, "Let no man despise thy youth. This word "despise" gives the idea of to contemn, to despise, to disdain, to think little or nothing of. He says, "Let no man do that. Let no man think little of you, because you may be younger than me, or maybe not old enough to maybe be an authoritative figure. And I just wonder, how many, not only just the young people in the room, but I wonder what this list kind of looks like for us, and that how many people in this room have struggled with the one thing that somebody is going to think little of you about that keeps you from doing the things you should do for God, that shuts you up from saying the truth because of maybe something in your past. I think I can relate to both sides of this coin here today. I remember when I talked to the deacons before we decided to, I guess, introduce me to the church and vote on me and everything, and one of the comments was about the age, and I'm like, hey guys, I'm not as young as you think I am. I mean, I'm getting ready to turn 50. What are you looking for over here? In fact, I think that was thinking about this not too long ago, is that there was only like 15 years difference from where I am now from when Pastor started this church. So, I mean, it's not like I'm a 25 or 30 year old, but I'm flattered. I don't know if the bald head and the gray should have given it away, but anyway, it was that was a question I may have come back from a pastor who was more experienced and had more age. But anyway, so I think that you can look at this, and he could be like Paul knew with Timothy that as he goes back to Ephesus, and he's going to try to set things straight, so people are going to be like, Who are you to try to set us straight? You're not Paul, you're not this person who's had four decades of ministry experience. Who are you to tell us? And he's like, I'm just telling you right now, Timothy, you cannot let that pull you away from what you're called to do. The other part he talks about is an example, and this definition gives you the idea of it's a model for imitation or an instance for warning, as far as how it's used in scripture. Titus two six through eight is another one of these passages, very similar. It says young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded in all things, showing thysself a pattern of good works. That's really the same Greek word. There it says in doctrine, showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that cannot be condemned, for that he is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing

to say of you, so we're looking at scripture today. We're celebrating our young people moving on into different phases, maybe into the workforce. There's going to be maybe different groups of people they're going to be able to influence, and the question is, will they be an example? See this. solution to the youth in the verse was overcoming the assumption and the objection of the youth. I mean, that, that was kind of what was going on there. I remember, and when this was back, like 2009 and I was wanted a job at Conica Minolta, and I don't know why, but I did, and ended up doing kind of well there, but I remember through the interview process I thought I knocked it out of the park, and then when I'm sitting there, I'm thinking these people are going to call me back within 24 hours, but they didn't, it was 48 hours, 72 hours is a week, and I'm like, man, what I start thinking like a manager, and I'm like, why would they have not called me back, so I write this letter, and I'm making, here's all the objections of why you won't hire Dow Boyer Industry Standard. I was like, you may be thinking this, you may be thinking this, maybe thinking this, but then I went and bought a Monopoly board game, and I took out the boardwalk piece, I put it. In the letter, and I said I started kind of bragging on Conica Minolta. I was like, "Hey, Conoco Minolta is the boardwalk of the of the office industry, office equipment industry. And I finished the letter by saying, "But you have to ask yourself, what if Dow Boyer is Park Place? Because those who play Monopoly know that it's one thing to have Boardwalk, it's another thing when you have Boardwalk and Park Place, it's a great partnership, and you make a lot of money. So, I was trying to overcome objections, and I eventually got the job. Now, I'm just.. I'm here to teach the young people how to stand out, and how to get jobs, and how to be creative. But I think in our lives, a lot of times, there gonna be those things that are gonna be objectives that are gonna try to keep us from being an example for Christ, right? And I think it's important that our young people understand that they're not too young to be an example, you know, that that can't be an objective that just says, well, when I'm 30, or when I'm 40, or when I'm married, I'll get serious about my faith. Right now, I'm just pursuing the things I want to pursue. I want to be rich, right? I want to, I want to do all these things, and eventually I'll serve God. Paul is telling a younger man, let no man despise thy youth. He says, be an example, and these are the six things he said. He said, you want to overcome the thing that they're going to look at, overcome it by the way you live, because when you live out these six principles, they're not worried about how old you are, because they're going to see the real deal, and that's how you start overcoming the objectives and the things in your life that people are going to try to despise about you. It's how you live your life moving forward. Show them that example, any one of us can pull up a nasty bag of our past, and that might keep us from ever moving forward, and if we live in that, we're not going to produce the things that make us an example, but if we are moving forward in our faith, and not letting the thing, whatever it is, the youth, whatever that thing is, as long as we're not letting people despise that thing about us, to where we don't move forward for Christ, then the things that we're doing for Him will eventually change their mind. They're no longer looking at the age, because they see the wisdom, and they see these six things, and the first thing that he says is in word, he says be an example of the believers, not to the believers, of the believers, show them when they might come and say you're too young, show them you're not too young. Show them it's not about the age. Show them it is not about the thing they think should disqualify you. Be an example of the believers in word. The very first thing he says in word, how you speak, and today I think it's how you type, it's what you put on social media. There's nothing that could more quickly disqualify you from being listened to by somebody else than how you handle yourself on social media and how you handle yourself through text, because most young people today, I think they're really awkward in front of you when it comes to really having to talk, but then they'll walk into the other room, and they will text like crazy, and I think that there is a lost art of being able to sit in front of somebody and look them in the eyes and have a conversation, and you can't say that, "Well, I'm just shy" or "I'm just backwards, but the first thing that Paul says, "Let no man despise thy youth, be an example in word, so he's telling them that be a Christian example in

word. Let your words be different than those who are trying to despise thy youth. Ephesians 4:29 says, let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. We know that Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your speech be always with grace seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man. It's amazing, the first thing that he says is in word. Imagine if Timothy would go to Ephesus, and he'd be filled with arrogance out of every word that comes out of his mouth. Not only would they say you're too young and despise his youth, but now they're like his words, the way he talks to us. We can't stand him, even if it is truth. The first thing he says is how you communicate out of your mouth matters. Your words matter. What are you saying, you young people, when you get to college, right? You're going to be surrounded by a bunch of people who don't get this, who don't understand this, but one of the ways you are an example to them is the things you say, the things you talk about, the conversations you participate in, and the things you're willing to walk away from, you. And the second thing he says is in conversation, and this is how you live your life. This is your lifestyle. If you want people not to despise fill in the blank youth or whatever, how do you live your life? How real is this? Is this something you do just on a Sunday? Is it a Monday through Sunday thing? Is it a lifestyle that you have? Romans 12:1 and 2, and this - I know I mentioned this - we talked about baptism a couple weeks ago. It should not be just one moment in time, a celebration bringing everybody together. It should be your life. Romans 12:1 and 2 says, I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. It's not an unreasonable thing to ask. Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. It's amazing. The very last verse of chapter four, just a few verses after this, he tells Timothy, or yeah, he tells Timothy to be able to continue in the doctrine that you save yourself and those that hear it is important that we be an example in the way we live our lives, not with reckless abandon, not abusing grace, not loaded with addictions, destroying our wives and and our children and in our homes, in our work, on our workplace. We should be different. We're to be ambassadors. We are the ones who are presenting a gospel to a lost and dying world that gets lost if our behavior doesn't line up. The next thing it says, since we know that we want to live a life that's pleasing to Him, but the next thing it says in charity, how we love. First Corinthians 13:4 through 7 says, charity suffereth long and is kind, charity envieth not, charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. It's amazing, he says, in charity, in what you say, the way you live, and the way that you love. Romans 5:6 through 8 says, for when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet peradventure for a good man, some would even dare to die, but God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Look at the example God gave, that He gave His very best for the very worst of us. He loved the most unlovable people. Is that the example we set forth for others. Romans 12:10 says, "Be kindly affection one to another with brotherly love and honor, preferring one another. Galatians 5:13 through 14 says, "Brethren, you have been called unto liberty; use not your liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. In verse 14, the law is fulfilled, even in one word, even this, that thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Be an example in the way that you love, or in the way you show charity to others. Love is actually one of the fruits of the spirit, in Galatians chapter five, which leads to the next one, he says, in spirit, not in his own strength. Don't be an example in your own strength. This is what Will was talking about in the youth group this morning, but being strengthened by the power of his might. Right, it's him who began a good work in you, who will perform until the day of Christ. It's he who is faithful to call you, who will also do it. It's him who wills in you to do his good pleasure, it is God's power in

you. It's walking in the spirit, not fulfilling the lust of the flesh. He said this should be part of your example as a maturity of believers, is that we are walking in the spirit and not fulfilling the lust of the flesh. And what happens when we do that? This is what the spirit produces us in Galatians 5:22 through 23 says the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law. So he says in word, in conversation, in charity, and in spirit. And then he says in faith, be an example in faith. First Corinthians 4:2 says, moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful. I find this really interesting, because the chapter starts out with Paul talking about what people look like in the latter times, and what he mentions right in verse one. Is that there will be in the latter days those that depart from their faith, but yet here he's telling Timothy, be an example in faith. He says you need to be counter to the culture. The culture is going to represent those who have departed from the faith, but you, Timothy, as you are a teacher, as you're going to Ephesus, you, Timothy, need to be an example in faith, even though everyone else around you is departing from the faith. You be an example in faith, and we know faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God, you don't muster up more faith. You're studying the word of God. That faith starts growing in you, and you're into the doctrine. You understand how you're to live forward in this day and age, and you have faith in what God has said He's doing and what He says about you in this present dispensation. He says be an example in faith. I love First Corinthians 15:58 It talks about being steadfast, unmovable, always abounding. This gives the idea of sticking it out in faith, never wavering. And then he says, in purity, even if you're checking all the other boxes, but our young people now is not a time for you to sleep around. There's never a time for that. You want to lose the ability to be an example, then sleep around, but if you want to be an example, be pure. He says in First Timothy 5:2, just in the very next chapter, he says the elder women as mothers, the younger as sisters with all purity. He's given the idea, and this is for the young men in the room, right? This is for all men, really. It's viewing anybody who's not your spouse as a sister and in a world that objectifies women, can you pray for and protect your sisters? Can you be an example in purity? But yeah, but I'm a.. I want to do God's will. I'm a man of God, and this is what guys struggle with, really. Okay, First Thessalonians 4:3 says this is the will of God. Okay, let's just get this out of the way right now. What is the will of God? Part of His will is this, even your sanctification, which is being set apart for holy use. Part of the will of God is that you should abstain from fornication. It's not merely good advice, it is literally the will of God that you abstain from fornication. I wish I would have this beaten over my head, tattooed on every visible part of my body. I wish this was the thing I woke up to when I was a young man, and that was the first thing I woke up to, and it was the objective. If that alone was the objective, then my life probably would turn out a lot different in my early teen years, and or my late teen years, and early 20s, but for the young people in the room, when you're tempted and everybody else around you is doing the wrong thing, you stay pure, and even if you've struggled in that area, then you take a stand today, and you say, from here on out, I will be pure. I remember hearing Jeffrey Johnson at Eastern Star years and years ago when I was going to Bible college. I remember on Tuesday night, I think it was, I was driving up to class at Crossroads Bible College, and he was going crazy on one of his sermons, which he did a lot. He's really energetic, and he was talking to his audience, and he says, "You may not be able to get your virginity back, but you can get your virtue back, and that has always stood out to me, because so often we think, well, that's gone now, so I guess I can just live however I want to live. No, you can still go and live pure, even if you've made those mistakes. You just make that choice that my lifestyle from here on out is not going to be that. Colossians 3:5 says, "Mortify, therefore, your members which are upon the earth. And the first one he lists lists as fornication. Then he says, "Uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil, concupiscence, covetousness, which is idolatry. The first four, they're all related really to lust and sexuality. Ephesians 5:3, but fornication and uncleanness and covetousness, let it not be once named among you as becometh saints. So, think about this list for a second. Paul

says, I'm going to send you to Ephesus, and I've given you this charge to correct them. It's not going to be me, I'm hoping that I can be with you in the future, but I'm sending you, Timothy, and I'm preparing you because people are going to not want to hear what you have to say, and because they're not going to want to hear what you have to say, they're going to start pointing things out about you to discredit you, to disqualify you, and the thing that they're going to focus on is your youth, really. Experience, he says, how you overcome that is that you are an example that they're able to see the way you speak, the life you live, they're able to see the faith in the words that you're saying, living out your faith in a real way, they're seeing that you're walking in the spirit and not in the flesh, and they're seeing that you are a man of purity. If you're doing these things, you've given him no reason to despise your youth, because it's really not about the number or the experience, but you are living your life in maturity, and you have overcome the biggest obstacle. So, what about you, graduates? What will be said about you a year from now? Will they say that you are an example in word, conversation, and love, spirit, and faith, and purity? What will be said about you five years from now? Will you be an example, or will you have given into the culture? Now, wrapping this up, Timothy had an example in Paul. Think about all the physical difficulties that Timothy witnessed in Paul, even in Philippi. When Paul didn't use his Roman citizenship to get out of trouble, Timothy was able to see that Timothy was able to see a man who, every time that he was beaten, did not give up on the gospel, even in jail wasn't praying for release, but praying for opportunity to speak the gospel. In fact, he'd spent so much time that it's likely at the time that he's receiving this letter from Paul that Timothy is probably in his 30s. So this message isn't just for the teens today, it's for all of us. Fact, on my algorithm, it must have knew what I was teaching about this week, because you know how it is on social media, but there's this, because I'm getting old, I think, because I started getting all these messages. This one was like, how to have a smoking hot body into your old age, and it was a cremation ad. I'm like, I'm like, seriously, that's the only way I could have a smoking hot potty in my old age is to be cremated, put Marty out of business. I mean, what are you doing here? But seriously, this message isn't just for the young people. First Corinthians nine, or First Corinthians 10 nine and 10, says this about Paul. Now, it might have been Timothy's youth, but think about what they would have said about Paul. He says that I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters, for his letters say they are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. First Timothy two, I'm sorry, First Corinthians two four. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but demonstration of the Spirit and of power. I mean, what could they say about Paul? It's like, let no man despise thy contemptible speech, or let no man despise thy appearance. If it was reversed, and Timothy was writing to Paul, let no man despise thy marks of the mission, the wounds that you now carry around because of the persecution that you face. Let no man despise those things, or the long list in Second Corinthians, chapter 11. So, for you today, this is for the whole congregation. What is it that somebody would despise about you? What would be the thing? Would it be a previous failed marriage? Can you say in the scripture, would Paul be saying, "Let no man despise thy previous failed marriage, or would he say, "Let no man despise your previous drug addiction, let no man despise your lack of education. No, let no man despise your advanced age. Right, let no man despise your skin color. Whatever it is, the way we don't let people despise that about us is the example of the life that we lead, and we do this by the things we say, by the way we live, by the way that we love, right, we walk in the spirit, not in our own flesh. We're showing our faith, right? We are walking in the right doctrine, faithfully living it out, and we are living pure. You do those things, that doesn't matter what they're trying to despise about you, it really doesn't, whatever the thing is that has kept you from going forward for the Lord, whatever the thing is that you think somebody would despise about you, it's not about what you have done or what physical appearance you might have, but the real proof is how are you living, you will shut a lot of people up, and you will gain a lot of listeners if you just be faithful and consistent to the word of

God, and not live in whatever was, or whatever inefficiencies you think that you have. Paul was preparing Timothy to go into the lions' den. He says the way you're going to be able to be heard is by those six things: what you say, how you live, how you love, walking in the spirit, walking in faith, and walking in purity. My challenge to you today is work on those six and stop focusing on the things somebody is going to despise about you. I'm going to have everybody stand at this time. We're going to pray, we'll sing a song, and then we'll get you guys dismissed. At this point, as everybody's standing, and we're going to sing a brief song with with Stan. But at this time, if you're interested in coming forward, you want to be a part, you want to start serving, you got questions about salvation, you're wanting to make sure you know what the next steps are. We have people up front that would love to talk to you about that, and we want to give you the opportunity to slip out and get your questions answered. But this time we're going to pray, and then we will sing. Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for this day. I thank you, Lord, for this passage of scripture that starts out by talking about what the culture will look like in those latter times, and what he's telling Timothy to do is to live counter to the culture. It's really what you're telling us to do, and a culture that is without faith, and a culture that is forbidding to marry, in a culture that is moving so far away from you, we cannot mimic culture, we cannot be conformed to this world, but we can be an example of the believers and what we say and how we live in the way that we walk in the spirit, in faith, in accordance to the right doctrine, in purity, and Lord, those things will show us to be different. So, Lord, I pray, Lord, that you just be at the people, whether it's our young people as they move on to the next phase, whether they would be challenged a year from now, five years from now, would they be giving in to the first part of the verse, or would they be living out the last six parts of the verse? Lord, I pray you protect them as they move forward. Lord, help them to be ambassadors to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, Lord, be with our congregation, whatever the thing is that that they are just so convinced in their mind that somebody despises about them, that is keeping them from getting in the race, and to serve and to start going forward for you, whatever thing's holding them back, Lord, give them hope today that they can overcome the thing that someone is despising, and Lord, I pray you protect our church. Help us to keep moving forward for you. We love you and we praise you in Jesus' name.



37:47

Amen.